

# *User's Guide*

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## Creative Live! Drive II

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June 2000

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- Directive 89/336/EEC, 92/31/EEC (EMC)

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# Introduction

Connect Live! Drive to your Sound Blaster Live! audio card, and you will have the best audio solution available for your music, digital audio content creation, games, movies, CDs, MP3 songs and other Internet entertainment. The Live! Drive has a front panel, which allows you to connect commonly used audio sources to external devices easily. It conveniently allows you to plug in your microphone and headphones, and adjust the gain/volume from the front panel. Live! Drive also provides MIDI, as well as, digital input and output connectors for your audio recording and content authoring purposes.

## System Requirements

The minimum system requirements for Live! Drive are:

- ☐ An installed Sound Blaster Live! (with an AUD\_EXT expansion header)
- ☐ An available 5¼" PC drive bay
- ☐ Genuine Intel® Pentium® class processor:  
133 MHz for Windows 95/98, 200 MHz for Windows NT 4.0
- ☐ Intel or 100% compatible motherboard chipset
- ☐ Windows 95, 98 or Windows NT 4.0
- ☐ 16 MB RAM for Windows 95/98 (32 MB RAM recommended),  
32 MB RAM for Windows NT 4.0
- ☐ 160 MB of free hard disk space
- ☐ Headphones or amplified speakers (available separately)
- ☐ CD-ROM drive required for software installation

# Your Live! Drive



If a particular INPUT source (for example, Line In 2) is supported by the Live! Drive as well as the Digital I/O card, only the input on the Live! Drive will be enabled. However, using the microphone via the Line In 2/Mic In 2 input on the Live! Drive will also disable the Line In 2 input on the Digital I/O card.



To connect to your existing computer headphones and microphone to the Live! Drive, use the 1/4" to 3.5mm adapter provided.

The front panel of your Live! Drive has these jacks, connectors and controls:

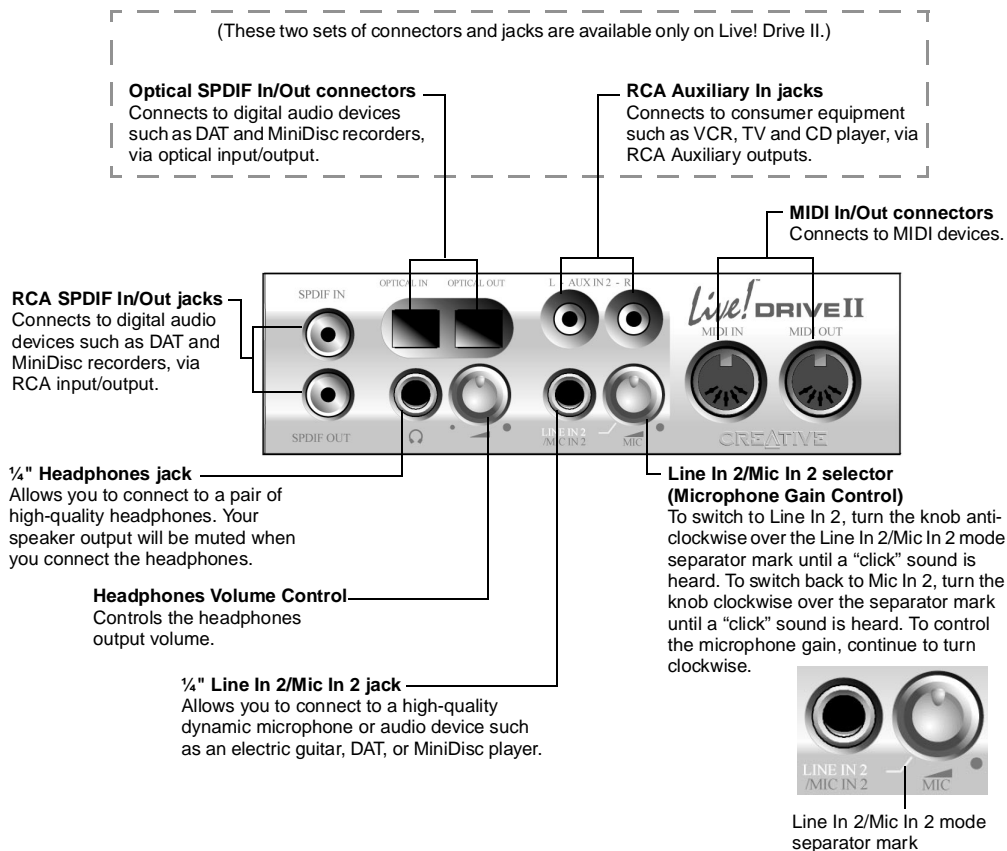


Figure 1: Jacks, connectors and controls on the Live! Drive.



## Switching Audio Input Sources



You need to install the software first before you can switch audio input sources.



However, if the SPDIF Bypass feature and Aux In 2 are both enabled, both the SPDIF In and Aux In 2 channels will be available.

For details on the SPDIF Bypass feature, see “Digital I/O” on page 14.

On your Sound Blaster Live! and Live! Drive, two audio input sources may share a connection. In such cases, only one of the input source can be enabled and used at any one time.

If your audio card has an I<sup>2</sup>S connector, you can use only either one of the following inputs at any one time:

- ☐ I<sup>2</sup>S
- ☐ Line In 2 or Line In 2/Mic In 2

To switch the audio input source:

1. Click **Start -> Programs -> Creative -> Sound Blaster Live! -> Surround Mixer**.
2. On the Mixer deck (lower portion of Surround Mixer), click any of the audio input source icon, and then select either the **I<sup>2</sup>S In** or **Line In 2/Microphone 2** icon.
3. Click the **red plus sign** above the I<sup>2</sup>S In or Line In 2/Mic In 2 icon.
4. In the **Other Advanced Controls** dialog box, select the **Enable Line In 2/Mic In 2** check box to enable the Line In 2/Mic In 2 input source. Clear the check box to enable I<sup>2</sup>S In.

If your Live! Drive has Aux In 2 connectors, you can use only either one of the following inputs at any one time:

- ☐ Aux In 2
- ☐ SPDIF In (Coaxial or Optical)

To switch the audio input source:

1. Click **Start -> Programs -> Creative -> Sound Blaster Live! -> Surround Mixer**.
2. On the Mixer deck (lower portion of Surround Mixer), click any of the audio input source icon, and then select either the **SPDIF In** or **Auxiliary 2** icon.
3. Click the **red plus sign** above the SPDIF In or Auxiliary 2 icon.
4. In the **Other Advanced Controls** dialog box, select the **Enable Auxiliary 2** check box to enable the Auxiliary 2 input source. Clear the check box to enable SPDIF In.

## Connecting Headphones



To listen to an analog source (e.g. CD Audio) using headphones, make sure that in Surround Mixer, the recording source selected is “What U Hear”. Otherwise, no sound will be heard from the headphones.

## Connecting Microphone



The shunt for Jumper C85 can be found together with the packet of screws provided.

There are two types of headphones which you can connect to the Live! Drive:

- ☐ Home audio or professional audio headphones, which are usually fitted with a 1/4" stereo plug.
- ☐ Personal stereo headphones, which are usually fitted with a 3.5mm stereo plug, such as those used for portable audio players.

There are two types of microphone which you can connect to the Live! Drive:

- ☐ Dynamic microphone, which is usually fitted with a 1/4" stereo plug, such as those used in vocal performances.
- ☐ Condenser microphone, which is usually fitted with a 3.5mm stereo plug, such as the Telex microphone bundled with Creative audio products.

By default, Live! Drive is set for use with a condenser microphone. To use a dynamic microphone, you must place the shunt (jumper cap) onto Jumper C85 on the Live! Drive. See Figure 4 on page 8 for the location of Jumper C85 on the Live! Drive.

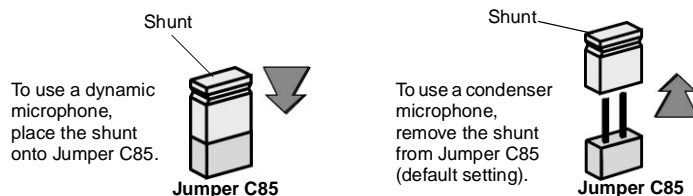


Figure 2: Microphone jumper settings.

# Adjusting Headphones Volume and Microphone Gain

## Using the Live! Drive Control Knobs

## Using Creative Surround Mixer



It is recommended that you set the headphones volume level and microphone gain level to 75% in Surround Mixer, and use the control knobs on the Live! Drive to make further adjustments.



Even if you turn the control knob on the Live! Drive to the maximum, your headphones will have no sound if you set the headphones volume level to 0% or mute it in Surround Mixer. The same applies for your microphone.

If your headphones and microphone are attached to the Live! Drive, the headphones volume and microphone gain can be adjusted in two ways.

On the front panel of the Live! Drive, turn the respective control knob:

- ☐ **Anti-clockwise** to **decrease** the headphones volume or microphone gain.
- ☐ **Clockwise** to **increase** the headphones volume or microphone gain.

To adjust the headphones volume:

1. Click **Start -> Programs -> Creative -> Sound Blaster Live! -> Surround Mixer**.
2. On the Mixer deck (lower portion of Surround Mixer), if the button below the **VOL** slider is not highlighted, click it to unmute the output sound.
3. Adjust the **VOL** slider.

To adjust the microphone gain:

1. Click **Start -> Programs -> Creative -> Sound Blaster Live! -> Surround Mixer**.
2. On the Mixer deck (lower portion of Surround Mixer), click any of the audio input source icon, and then select the **Line In 2/Microphone 2** icon.
3. If the button below the **Line In 2/Microphone 2** slider is not highlighted, click it to unmute the audio input source.
4. Adjust the slider under the **Line In 2/Microphone 2** icon.

# Installing Hardware

To install your Live! Drive, you need to perform the following:

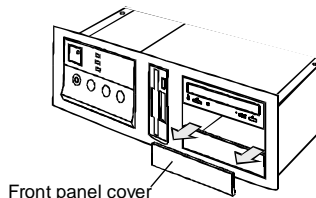
- ☐ Step 1: Prepare the System for Hardware Installation
- ☐ Step 2: Insert the Live! Drive into the System
- ☐ Step 3: Connect to the SB Live! Card
- ☐ Step 4: (Optional) Install the Digital DIN Metal Bracket (To connect to FPS2000 or DTT2500 speakers)
- ☐ Step 5: (Optional) Connect to the Digital I/O Card (Only if you have one)
- ☐ Step 6: Complete the Installation

## Step 1: Prepare the System for Hardware Installation



Place your CD-ROM/DVD-ROM drive above the Live! Drive to prevent dangling cables from the front panel blocking access to the drive tray.

1. Switch off your system and all peripheral devices.
2. Touch a metal plate on your system to ground yourself and to discharge any static electricity, and then unplug the power cord from the wall outlet.
3. Remove the cover from your system.
4. Remove the front panel cover from one unused 5¼" drive bay.



*Figure 3: Removing front panel cover.*

## Step 2: Insert the Live! Drive into the System

1. Pass the following cable ends from the inside of the casing through the vacant 5¼" drive bay, and then leave the cables dangling halfway on the outside of the casing:
  - ☐ Smaller end of the power splitter cable
  - ☐ Dark grey flat cable end with a black circle near the connector
  - ☐ (Optional) Any end of the light grey flat cable (if you want to connect to a Digital I/O card from an earlier purchase)
  - ☐ (Optional) Cable end of the Digital DIN metal bracket (if you want to connect to FPS2000 or DTT2500 speakers)

2. Connect the cables to the Live! Drive as shown in Figure 4.

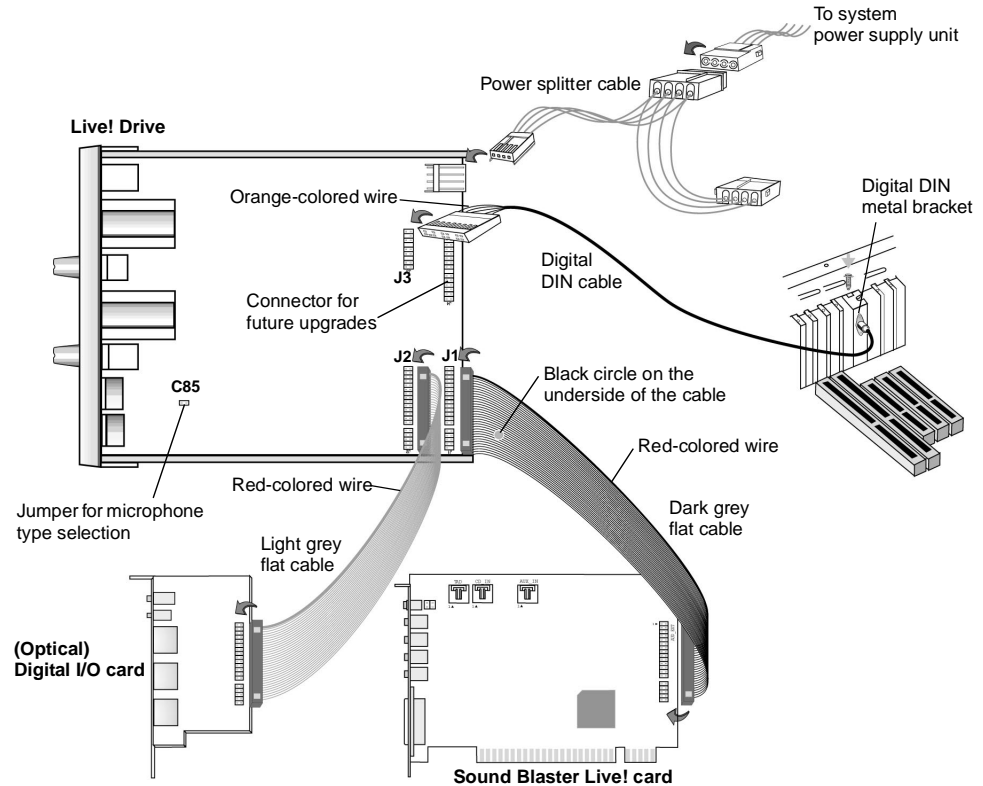


Figure 4: Connecting cables to the Live! Drive.

3. Slide the Live! Drive into the vacant 5¼" drive bay, and then secure its sides to the casing with the screws provided.

### Step 3:

## Connect to the SB Live! Card

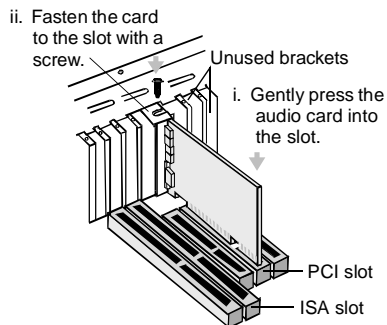


Do not force the audio card into the slot. If it does not fit properly, gently remove it and try again.

- ▶ Connect the dark grey flat cable to Sound Blaster Live!'s AUD\_EXT header.

If you have difficulty connecting to the AUD\_EXT header:

1. Remove the Sound Blaster Live! card from its PCI slot.
2. Connect the dark grey flat cable to Sound Blaster Live!'s AUD\_EXT header.
3. Align the Sound Blaster Live! card with the vacant PCI expansion slot. Press the card gently and evenly into the slot as shown in Figure 5. Ensure that the card is seated firmly inside the PCI expansion slot.
4. Secure the card to the expansion slot with a screw.



*Figure 5: Securing the audio card to the PCI expansion slot.*

## Step 4: (Optional) Install the Digital DIN Metal Bracket (To connect to FPS2000 or DTT2500 speakers)

1. Remove the metal plate from a vacant ISA or PCI expansion slot.
2. Align the Digital DIN metal bracket with the vacant expansion slot opening.
3. Secure the metal bracket to the system casing with a screw.

## Step 5: (Optional) Connect to the Digital I/O Card (Only if you have one)

- Connect the light grey flat cable to the Digital I/O card's AUD\_EXT header.

If you have difficulty connecting to the AUD\_EXT header:

1. Remove the Digital I/O card from the system.
2. Connect the light grey flat cable to the Digital I/O card.
3. Place the metal bracket of the Digital I/O card into the vacant bracket on the system casing.
4. Secure the card to the system casing with a screw.

## Step 6: Complete the Installation

1. Connect the power splitter cable to the system power supply unit.
2. Replace the cover onto your system.
3. Plug the power cord back into the wall outlet, and switch on the system.

## Using Your Live! Drive

The Live! Drive will most undoubtedly give you endless hours of listening pleasure. The following information and diagrams on the next two pages show how you can connect to your Live! Drive to optimize your enjoyment.



## Playing Games and Music

## Watching DVD Movies Using SoftPC-DVD

## Recording and Content Authoring



FourPointSurround and DeskTop Theater 5.1 speaker systems, Digital I/O Module, Digital Output Module and Digital I/O card are available separately.

- ❑ With FourPointSurround or DeskTop Theater 5.1 Digital Speaker System from Cambridge SoundWorks, you can experience crystal clear gaming sequences or music from the Digital DIN connection.
- ❑ If you are using Creative SoftPC-DVD to watch DVD movies on your PC, connect from the SPDIF Output of your Live! Drive to an external Dolby Digital (AC-3) decoder such as the DeskTop Theater speaker systems.
- ❑ The Live! Drive fits into the standard 5¼" drive bay of your computer and thus allows you easy access to the following connectors from its front panel:
  - Standard MIDI input/output connectors for connection to MIDI devices;
  - A second analog Line In allows you to connect to an additional input device (e.g. a CD player) for recording. Switchable to Microphone mode for a second microphone input, with front panel volume control;
  - A Headphones jack to connect to your headphones, with front panel volume control.
  - A set of SPDIF (RCA) input/output jacks for recording to and from external digital devices such as MiniDisc or DAT recorders
  - A set of SPDIF Optical input/output jacks for recording to and from external digital devices such as MiniDisc or DAT recorders via an optical connection. (Available on Live! Drive II only.)
  - A set of Auxiliary input jacks for recording from consumer equipment such as television, video cassette recorder and CD players. (Available on Live! Drive II only.)
- ❑ A Digital DIN connector for connection to digital speakers such as the FourPointSurround or DeskTop Theater 5.1 Digital Speaker Systems.
- ❑ The Headphones and Microphone connections utilizes ¼" jacks for high-quality connectivity.

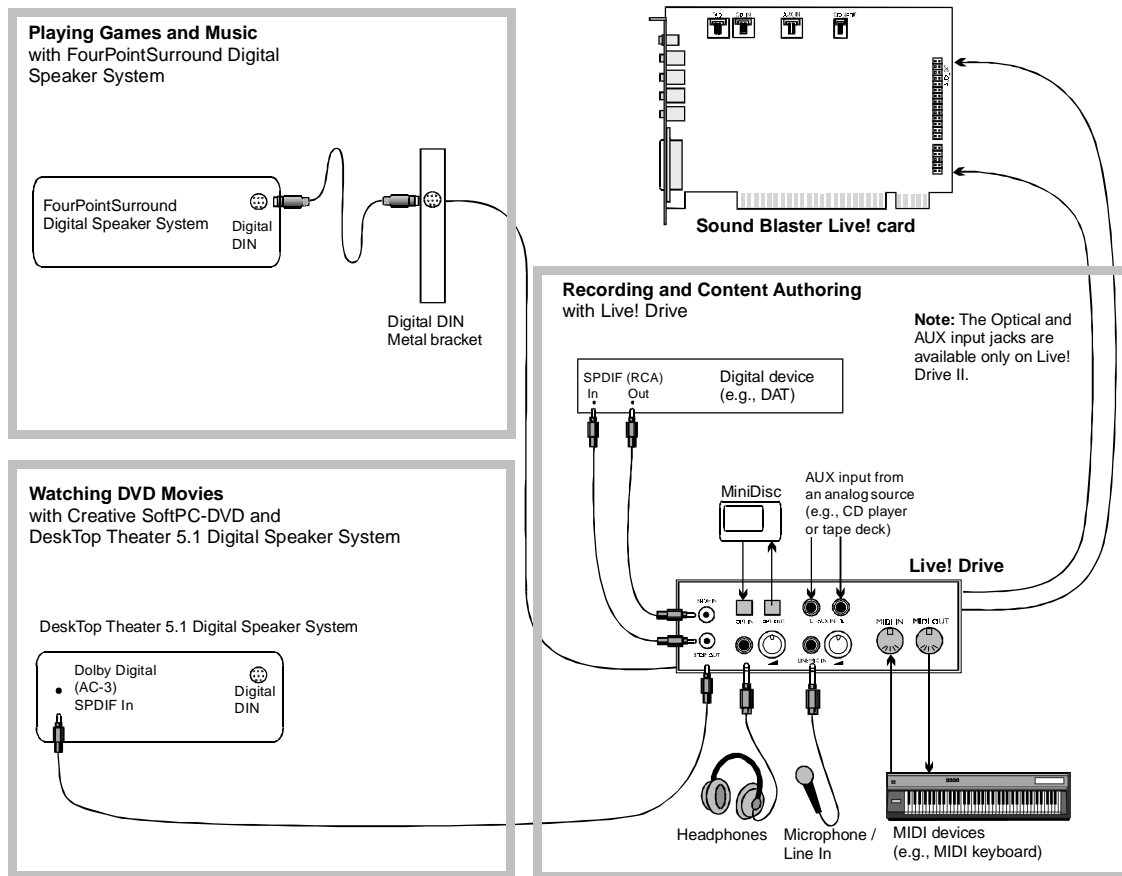


Figure 6: Connecting peripherals to the Live! Drive.

If you have an Optical Digital I/O card (or Digital I/O card) from an earlier purchase, you can connect it to your Live! Drive. The figure below shows an alternative method for audio recording and content authoring using the Optical Digital I/O card.



When you cascade your existing Digital I/O card to the Live! Drive, please note the following:

- On the Digital I/O card, only the SPDIF Outputs are available. The SPDIF Inputs and 2nd Line Input are available on the Live! Drive. The SPDIF Outputs are also available on the Live! Drive.
- You can connect two MIDI devices simultaneously to the MIDI Input of the Live! Drive and Digital I/O card. However, at any one time, you can only use the MIDI Input on either the Live! Drive or the Digital I/O card. The MIDI Output is available on both the Digital I/O card and the Live! Drive.

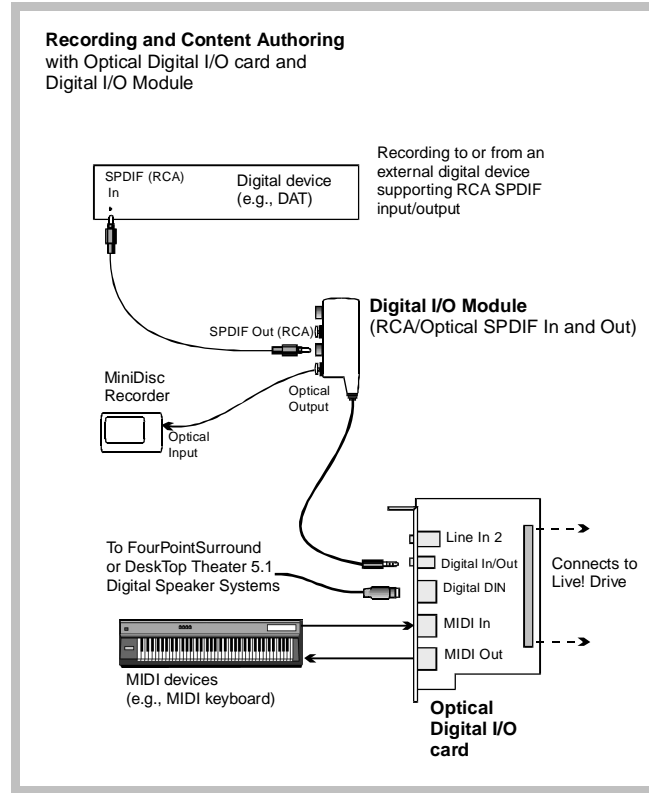


Figure 7: Connecting peripherals to an Optical Digital I/O card.

## Installing Software

1. Insert the installation disc into your CD-ROM drive.  
The disc supports Windows AutoPlay mode and starts running automatically. If not, see “Troubleshooting” on page 15.
2. Follow the instructions on the screen to complete the installation.

## Additional Features in Device Controls

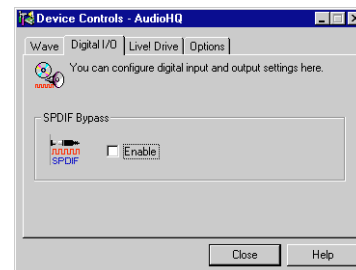
After you install the software for the Live! Drive, you will be able to enable the SPDIF Bypass feature for your digital inputs and outputs, and mute your speakers when you plug your headphones into Live! Drive. These two new features appear as two new tabbed pages in Device Controls.

### Digital I/O

*To enable the SPDIF Bypass feature:*

- On the **Digital I/O** tabbed page, select the **Enable** check box to place a check mark in it.

SPDIF Bypass is required if you want audio signals passing through SPDIF In to be routed directly to SPDIF Out, without passing through the processor chip.



### Live! Drive

*To mute the speakers when using headphones:*

- On the **Live! Drive** tabbed page, select the **Mute speakers when using headphones** check box to place a check mark in it.



# General Specifications

## Audio Inputs and Outputs On Front Panel

- ☐ Two RCA jacks for coaxial SPDIF input and output
- ☐ One Headphone output with auto detection via ¼" stereo jack with volume control
- ☐ One shared line-level analog Line/Microphone input via ¼" stereo jack. Shared input selectable via switch with gain (or level) control
- ☐ Two 5-pin standard DIN female connector for MIDI input and output

## Additional Audio Inputs and Outputs on Front Panel (For Live! Drive II)

- ☐ Two RCA jacks for left and right channel stereo Auxiliary inputs
- ☐ Two optical connectors for Optical SPDIF input and output

## Interfaces

- ☐ Digital DIN pin header (J3) for rear metal bracket Digital DIN
- ☐ Power input connector to system power supply unit
- ☐ One AUD\_EXT (SB LIVE! CARD) 2x20 pin header (J1) for connection to SB Live! card
- ☐ One DIGITAL I/O CARD 2x20 pin header (J2) for connection to Digital I/O card (see Figure 4 on page -8)

# Troubleshooting

## Problems Installing Software

*In Windows 95/98, the installation does not start automatically after the CD-ROM is inserted.*

### Cause

The AutoPlay feature in your Windows 95/98 system may not be enabled.

### Solution

To start the installation program through the My Computer shortcut menu:

1. Double-click the **My Computer** icon on your Windows desktop.
2. In the **My Computer** window, right-click the CD-ROM drive icon.
3. On the shortcut menu, click **AutoPlay** and follow the instructions on the screen.

## Problems with Sound

### *No sound from the headphones.*

**Cause** The headphones may not be connected or configured properly.

**Solution** Check the following:

- ☐ The headphones are connected to the Headphones jack.
- ☐ Under the **Speaker** view in the Main deck of Surround Mixer, make sure that the Speaker selected is “Headphones”.
- ☐ In the Mixer deck of Surround Mixer, the recording source selected is “What U Hear”.

### *No sound from the speakers.*

**Cause** The speakers may not be connected properly, the mixer settings may not be configured properly, or the headphones are connected to the Live! Drive.

**Solution** Check the following:

- ☐ The speakers are connected to your card's output.
- ☐ The correct source has been selected in the Mixer deck.
- ☐ If the above conditions have been met and you still do not get any sound, click the **red plus sign** above the **VOL** control and check whether the **Digital Output Only** check box is selected. If it is, you are in the Digital Output Only mode and so must connect to digital speakers to hear the sound from your audio card. See the section on Digital Output Only in Surround Mixer's online help for more information.
- ☐ If your headphones and/or the ¼" to 3.5mm adapter are connected to the Live! Drive, disconnect them. Alternatively, open the Device Controls applet in AudioHQ, click the **Live! Drive** tab, and then clear the **Mute speakers when using headphones** check box.